

A role model character to ensure lifestyles for sustainable development

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The search for solutions to the 31 genuine problems identified in children in the sample schools which were confirmed by the parents who participated in awareness programmes and who brought their children from various parts of the island, in response to a list of these problems published in news papers, revealed that "lack of WISDOM" was the fundamental cause of all the surging problems of the society, ranging from violence to abuse of power. Wrong approach to these problems aggravated them, producing the global problem of "unsustainable development" which manifests in the material plane, but the root cause is in the Spiritual Plane. Restoring the Holistic Human Character which has been fragmented into material subjects, and rejected by modernity and post-modernity, is the urgent need. As WISDOM is "timeless" the need for futurology does not arise. Through the indicators of transformation in children of the research sample, evolved the percentile analysis of the "Role model Character of the "WISE person", where the main components are: (Spirituality (60%), Aesthetic sense (14%), Versatility (14%), Secular - Vocational knowledge (6%), Good health habits (6%). The following Universal and "timeless" Human virtues developed over about 80000 years by whittling down the features of animal behaviour in stages, beginning with the intelligence of the hominid are : 1. Belief and faith in the Dharma truth and righteousness (Religion -power above the Human ?) 2. Living with nature as a child of Nature 3. Sacredness 4. Commitment 5. Selfless love and sensitivity. 6. Aesthetic sense 7. Hiri-Othap-sexual discipline -chastity 8. Versatility including secular -vocational knowledge. Virtues should replace the Western concept of "values" which were selected and could be changed. The new "Role model" replaces the "citizen" the selfish non-religious "Technocratic Hominid" who has reached maximum development in pop-culture and continues to destroy the Human Kind. But the "Wise Person" would never succumb to untimely death, malicious disease, bomb blasts, venom of serpents, natural disasters and accidents. These are the time tested lifestyles - realities of living with Nature, which are beyond technology and materialistic research. Water, Energy, Health and Agriculture were / are sacred for the Wise Person. A majority of Wise Persons would ensure a sustainable future for the Man. Failure of the various types of education such as: value education, moral /peace/citizenship and the latest type of "Character education" as confirmed by the statistics especially from the Western countries, prove that Human Character or virtues can never be taught through imparting secular knowledge. UNESCO accepts that reorientation of education for positive societal transformation for Sustainable Development, is necessary. It has to commence with changing the objectives of education itself into "Education of the Emotions -promotion of WISDOM" or instilling the universal Human virtues whereas at present education is confined, only to 6% percent- imparting (vocational) secular knowledge, of the whole Human Character. Once again Character building of children should be handed over to the Sacred Religious Institute and the family as the school which was developed to produce "citizens" who challenged Nature, cannot under take to produce Wise Persons. Information and communication technologies should once again resort to disseminating the message of WISDOM as the main objective.

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